

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for identifying allowable subject matter in this case. This paper is submitted in response to the Office action mailed on November 30, 2006. This paper amends claims 1, 16 and 31, and cancels claims 5-8, 20-23 and 34-35. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 1-4, 9-19, 24-33 and 36-39 will be pending.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The final Office action of November 30, 2006 indicates that claims 7, 8, 22, 23 and 35 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 16 and 31 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 5-8, 20-23 and 34-35, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 16 and 31, as amended, overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Application No. 6,863,889 to Chan et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 6,438,744 to Toutongi et al. further in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 6,609,158 to Nevarez et al. As such, Applicant respectfully requests that these amendments after final be entered, and that the claims, as amended, be allowed.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's characterization of the cited references and the application of the cited references in rejecting the independent claims and others. Furthermore, Applicant reserves the right to pursue additional claims in this case. Nonetheless, in order to expedite prosecution of this case, the independent claims are amended hereby to include the allowable subject matter.

II. Conclusion

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his thorough review of the application. The Applicant respectfully submits the present application, as amended, is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the issuance of a Notice of Allowability as soon as practicable.

The Applicant believes no fees or petitions are due with this filing. However, should any such fees or petitions be required, please consider this a request therefor and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 as necessary.

If the Examiner should require any additional information or amendment, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated: Feb. 26, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory P. Durbin", written over a horizontal line.

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